

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:04 AM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily; OU Nightly
Subject: Historic District Commission Announces Hands-on Masonry Repair Workshop

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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There's more to maintaining old bricks than meets the eye, according to the Norman Historic District Commission, sponsor of a restoration workshop scheduled for November. The Commission announces its 5th annual hands-on preservation workshop to be held on November 17 and 18, this year focusing on repairing historic masonry. Workshops will be led by nationally recognized historic preservation expert, Bob Yapp. Yapp will lead participants in the art and science of repairing deteriorated brick and mortar at two demonstration buildings in historic Downtown Norman.

On Saturday November 17 and Sunday, November 18, the two, day-long masonry workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is required for the workshops and preference will be given to Norman residents until November 7. A \$15-per -person workshop fee includes lunch. Registration is limited to 12 participants per session, but observers are welcome if space allows.

Downtown Norman's National Register Historic District was expanded last year to include thirteen blocks. "We're excited this year to be working on a couple of historic commercial buildings Downtown," said Neil Robinson, chairman of the Norman Historic District Commission. Workshop participants will use Yapp's techniques to repair brick walls on two buildings in the 300-block of East Main Street. "We are so pleased to have Bob Yapp back in Norman," Robinson adds. "He has a great deal of restoration expertise and experience to impart. In the past, his workshops have been very popular with property owners."

Yapp, who runs a school for historic preservation trades and technology in Hannibal, MO, will demonstrate various repair techniques for historic bricks and mortar. Each session will begin with a talk on masonry tools, materials and techniques, after which students will learn how to mix mortar, remove damaged material, and repoint mortar.

More than two dozen people participated in Yapp's 2011 window restoration workshop, also sponsored by the Norman Historic District Commission. Robinson said the primary mission of the

Commission is to identify and protect historic resources and to educate the public about the value of preservation. The masonry workshop is made possible by a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office Certified Local Government (CLG) program.

Reservations for the hands-on workshop session will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register for the workshop, email susan.atkinson@normanok.gov or call 405-366-5392.